

Agency: Department of Natural Resources**Project Title:**

Black Sands Beach State Marine Park Shelter and Outhouse Replacement

State Funding Requested: \$ 11,500
Future Funding May Be Requested**House District: 1 - A****Brief Project Description:**

Construction of a picnic shelter and outhouse at a state park in Ketchikan.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$11,500**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Item is \$11,500 for construction of a picnic shelter and outhouse at a state park in Ketchikan. The Black Sands Beach Marine State Park is a popular recreation site for residents and visitors, and is in need of infrastructure improvements. The current picnic shelter at the park is structurally unsound, and needs to be replaced for the safety of users. Sanitation and human waste is an increasing problem, and the area is in need of an outhouse. Funding would provide for installation of the outhouse and construction of a new picnic shelter, making the park a healthier and safer place.

Project Timeline:

FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska State Parks w/ in-kind support in-kind support from local staff

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



Infrastructure Improvements and Rehabilitation for Refuge Cove, Black Sands Beach, and Grindall Island SMP -Public Use Cabin

Project Summary: This project has 3 components within it. The first is to improve and increase parking, replace the outhouse, upgrade picnic facilities, and provide ADA trail access at Refuge Cove. The two additional components will provide a shelter, outhouses, and facility upgrades to 2 marine parks. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$163,500 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. It addresses health and safety issues of facilities and/or parking issues in three park units that have deteriorated because of lack of maintenance funds. They need to be repaired and upgraded.



Refuge Cove State Recreation Site is along Sunset Drive, a short distance from town, and is very popular for evening and weekend family picnics. There is only one small designated parking area for about 5-6 cars, and that area is sloughing into the ocean. After the parking lot is full, vehicles park alongside Sunset Drive. Road side parking leaves only enough room for single lane traffic, creating a safety problem for park and neighborhood traffic. Children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane, or vehicles pull to close to the edge to avoid pedestrians or oncoming traffic, and end up in the ditch.

The picnic tables were replaced about 14 years ago with recycled plastic wood. This material is now substandard. All of the 9 fire grills have completely rusted out and have been removed because of concerns they could topple over and injure someone. If fire grills are not replaced, the tendency is to have fires on the ground surface which eventually burn deep into the forest duff because of the peat-like subsurface.

The outhouse vault appears to be cracked because liquids are not present. It is no longer feasible to pump the vault. This presents a health problem and is adding pollutants to the environment. The building is deteriorating.

Black Sands Beach State Marine Park has historically been used as an outdoor recreation area. It is within 1.5 miles safe boating distance to Ketchikan in most all weather conditions. A badly deteriorated Black Sands Beach outhouse posed a health and safety concern and was removed from the site several years ago. A skeleton of a picnic shelter remained from before State Parks took over management from the U.S. Forest Service. At one time it would have been possible to repair the shelter, but now people have taken chainsaws to the posts and it has become a safety problem and a liability. Rebuilding the picnic shelter will provide park users protection during inclement weather, at least so they can cook and stay warm.

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THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



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Grindall Island State Marine Park includes a public use cabin and mooring buoy, and a variety of recreational opportunities. It provides a safe haven for boaters that may not be able to make a passage across Clarence Strait when weather suddenly turns bad.

Project Funding Specifics:

A). Parking Improvements at Refuge Cove State Recreation Site; estimated \$90,000: The current parking area can accommodate 8 vehicles and needs to be rehabilitated on the ocean-side. The current small parking lot will soon be lost to ocean erosion. A seawall would be created by placing rip-rap in front of the parking lot to prevent further sloughing of the parking area.

If the parking lot rehabilitation project is not completed now, the parking area will not exist in 2 years and the problem will be significant and much more costly. It will also be a safety hazard as the parking lot deteriorates into the highway road bed.

About 3-4 additional parking pullouts would be constructed along Sunset Drive, with direct access into the park and picnic sites on the beach frontage trail from the pullout. There would be a staircase from each pullout down to an accessible trail.

ADA trail improvements would be developed to transition from the parking lot to the trail along the narrow strip of forested beach frontage. Major improvements will make this an accessible trail that traverses the park along the beach accessing picnic sites. Several picnic sites would be developed along-side the trail. Estimated cost; \$20,000.

Upgrade picnic sites at Refuge Cove State Park; estimated \$5,000: Refuge Cove has 9 picnic sites. The picnic tables need to be replaced with wood, and made ADA compliant. Nine fire grills need to be replaced with appropriate aggregate underneath to prevent fires in the forest duff.

Replace of the 15 year old outhouse with a new single cement building; estimate \$30,000.

B). Replace outhouse & picnic shelter at Black Sands Beach State Marine Park; estimated \$11,500: A 4 x 4, framed outhouse, with a buried 55 gallon drum or replaceable drum needs to be installed at BSB, and on Blank Island (within the park boundaries). A 16' x 20' picnic shelter needs to be reconstructed, to replace the partially dismantled, vandalized picnic shelter skeleton that currently is standing. This popular picnicking and camping beach has no sanitary/outhouse facilities. Human waste is a common occurrence throughout a concentrated area on beach and the island proper, especially during high-use summer months. The adjacent small Blank Island is also very popular and attracts many overnight campers. The island's north facing beaches offer added protection from southern storms. The health and safety issue continues to remain a concern throughout the park. Waste litter adds to the health issues and sanitation problems. *\$500 for each outhouse; \$8000 for picnic shelter; \$2500 to transport materials to the site.*

C). Grindall Island State Marine Park and public use cabin; estimated \$7,000. A new deck and covered porch needs to replace the deteriorated deck. The cabin is due for a face lift; the entry door is rotting, the window screens no longer are functional, and the wood stove has about rusted through and needs to be replaced with an oil burning stove.